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Letter dated 22 May 2008 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the following: (a) the Doha Agreement regarding the outcome of the Lebanese national reconciliation conference; and (b) the outcome and resolutions issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at its extraordinary session held at the ministerial level on 11 May 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 22 May 2008 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Doha Agreement on the outcome of the meeting of the Lebanese National Dialogue

Under the generous sponsorship of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar;

In continuation of the efforts of the Arab Ministerial Committee on the Lebanese crisis under the leadership of His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and of Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and Their Excellencies the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Djibouti, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Yemen;

On the basis of the Arab Initiative on containing the Lebanese crisis;

And in implementation of the agreement concluded in Beirut among the Lebanese parties under the aegis of the Arab Ministerial Committee on 15 May 2008 (annexed), which is an integral part of the present declaration;

A meeting of the Lebanese National Dialogue was held in Doha from 16 to 21 May 2008, with the participation of the Lebanese political leaders who are members of the Lebanese National Dialogue, who affirmed their desire to rescue Lebanon from the current political crisis with its dire implications for communal existence and civil peace among Lebanese, and their commitment to the principles of the Lebanese Constitution and the Taif Accords. As a result of the proceedings of the meeting and of bilateral and group consultations conducted with the participants by the Chairman and members of the Arab Ministerial Committee,

Agreement was reached on the following:

I. The parties agreed that the Speaker of Parliament will call on the Lebanese Parliament to convene in accordance with established rules within 24 hours to elect the consensus candidate General Michel Sleiman as President of the Republic, this being the best way from a constitutional point of view to elect the President under these extraordinary circumstances.

II. A Government of national unity will be formed with 30 ministers to be allocated as follows: 16 to the majority, 11 to the opposition, and three to the President. All parties pledge by virtue of this Agreement not to resign or obstruct the work of the Government.

III. In accordance with the electoral law of 1960, the district (*qada'*) will be adopted as the electoral constituency in Lebanon, and the two districts of Marj 'Uyun-Hasbayya will remain a single electoral constituency, as will Baalbek-Hirmil and Western Bekaa-Rashayya.

Beirut will be divided as follows:

First Constituency:	al-Ashrafiyya — al-Rumayl — al-Sayfi;
Second Constituency:	al-Bashurah — al-Mudawwar — al-Marfa';
Third Constituency:	Mina' al-Husn — 'Ayn al-Muraysah — al-Mazra'ah — al-Musaytibah — Ra's Beirut — Zuqaq al-Balat.

It was agreed to refer the reform clauses contained in the draft law submitted to Parliament, drafted by the National Electoral Law Drafting Commission under the chairmanship of Minister Fuad Butros, for debate and consideration in accordance with established procedures.

IV. The above-referenced agreement concluded in Beirut will be implemented, and in particular paragraphs 4 and 5 thereof, which state that:

"4. The parties pledge to refrain from a return to the use of weapons or violence for the purpose of achieving political gain.

5. Dialogue will be launched to strengthen the authority of the Lebanese State over all its territory, and its relations with the various organizations in the Lebanese arena to ensure the security of the State and its citizens ..."

Accordingly, dialogue was launched in Doha on strengthening the authority of the State in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Beirut agreement, and agreement was reached on the following:

- Resort to the use of weapons or violence to resolve differences of any kind under any circumstances is prohibited, in order to ensure that there is no violation of the national contract of partnership based on the determination of the Lebanese to coexist within a democratic system. Security and military authority over Lebanese nationals and residents is reserved to the State, to guarantee continued communal existence and civil peace for all Lebanese. The parties pledge to this.
- The law is to be applied and the sovereignty of the State honoured in all Lebanese regions. There will be no regions in which fugitives from justice may take refuge, out of respect for the rule of law, and anyone who commits crimes or violations will be brought before the Lebanese justice system.

This dialogue will be resumed under the leadership of the President of the Republic immediately upon his election and a national unity Government will be formed, with the participation of the League of Arab States, with a view to strengthening confidence among Lebanese.

V. The Lebanese political leaders reaffirm their commitment to stop using the language of treason and political and sectarian incitement immediately.

The Arab Ministerial Committee undertakes to deposit this Agreement with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States upon its signature.

This Agreement was signed in the city of Doha on 21 May 2008 by the Lebanese political leaders who took part in the meeting.

(*Signed*)

His Excellency Speaker Nabih **Berri**

His Excellency Prime Minister Fouad **Siniora**

Shaykh Amin **Gemayel**

General Michel **Aoun**

Member of Parliament Michel **Murr**

Shaykh Saad **Hariri**

Mr. Walid **Jumblat**

Member of Parliament Boutros **Harb**

Member of Parliament Ilyas **Sakkaf**

Member of Parliament Ghassan **Tueni**

Member of Parliament Muhammad **al-Safadi**

Member of Parliament Muhammad **Raad**

Member of Parliament Agop **Baghradounian**

Member of Parliament Samir **Ja`ja`**

Witnessed by:

His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr **Al-Thani**
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar
Chairman of the Arab Ministerial Committee

Amre **Moussa**
Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

Outcome of the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States held at the ministerial level

Cairo, 11 May 2008

- Urgent call for an immediate cessation of the acts of violence and clashes in Lebanon.....Call 6
- Containment of the Lebanese crisis.....6915
- The terrorist attacks on the capital of the Sudan.....6916
- The tense situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in the Djiboutian region of Ras Doumeira.....6917

Urgent call for an immediate cessation of the acts of violence and clashes in Lebanon

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level, in the light of the news concerning the escalating violence and clashes in the Mount Lebanon region and other areas, issues an urgent call for the immediate cessation of all forms of armed aggression, the withdrawal of the armed parties from the areas of tension and the facilitation of the army's responsibility for maintaining security and preventing bloodshed.

Call No. 6/extraordinary session of 11 May 2008

Containment of the Lebanese crisis

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level,

Aware of the dangers of the current situation in Lebanon, the repercussions thereof on future security and stability in that country and the consequences for the situation in the whole region,

On the basis of the Arab responsibility towards Lebanon, and as part of the continuing Arab efforts to assist that country in overcoming the crisis,

In view of the extremely hazardous developments, which are escalating the political and security situations in Lebanon to a point where they could be difficult to contain,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Lebanon,

Decides

1. *To underline* the total rejection by the Arab countries of the situation created by the developments of the past few days in Lebanon and, in particular, the use of force and violence, which have threatened the internal peace of the country;

2. *To stress* that the Council rejects the use of armed violence to achieve political aims by means which are neither legitimate nor constitutional, and affirms the need for all armed elements to withdraw from the streets of Lebanon and for the current Lebanese political crisis to be settled in a manner that will maintain an effective role for every sect within the Lebanese entity;

3. *To welcome* the declaration made by the army leadership that it would be guided by the two resolutions concerning the airport security apparatus and the network of cable communications and include those issues in their remit; to welcome also the delegation by the Government to the army of responsibility for protecting public security, calming the situation and ensuring the functioning of public and private institutions; to commend the role played by the army and stress the need to preserve its unity, support its position and built its capacities to maintain the security of the country;

4. *To underline* the need to re-open and secure forthwith the road to Beirut International Airport, in order to permit the resumption of air traffic, and all other roads, and to re-open Beirut Port, with a view to ensuring the free movement of Lebanese and other travellers to and from the country;

5. *To uphold* all elements of the Arab Initiative as the basis for any resolution of the situation;

6. *To call upon* the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister and the leaders of the pro-Government alliance and the opposition to attend a special meeting of the ministerial committee referred to in the next paragraph in order to discuss the situation, agree on the urgent implementation of the Arab Initiative and contain the perilous state of affairs that could arise should current developments continue;

7. *To form* a ministerial committee chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and the Secretary-General, with members comprising

the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Djibouti, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Yemen;

8. *To request* that ministerial committee to travel to Beirut forthwith;

9. *To remain* in permanent session with a view to following developments.

Resolution 6915, extraordinary session of 11 May 2008

The terrorist attacks on the capital of the Sudan

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level,

Having heard the account presented by the head of the delegation of the Sudan of the devastating terrorist attack that was launched from Chadian territory against Khartoum, the capital of the Sudan, by the armed rebel group Justice and Equality Movement, with a view to terrorising the population and undermining the stability of the Sudan,

Reaffirming all its earlier resolutions concerning the upholding of peace, unity and development in the Sudan, the most recent of which was adopted at the Arab Summit in Damascus in 2008 and decided, inter alia, to:

– Support attempts to reach a political settlement of the Darfur problem;

– Call upon the rebel groups that have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement to renounce military escalation;

– Request the international community to exert efforts to prevent military resistance to the Agreement;

– Urge the Security Council to impose sanctions on parties that obstruct the political process in Darfur,

Affirming respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Sudan, and requesting all States to put that undertaking into practice and support attempts to achieve peace and national harmony,

Affirming also the need to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement which was signed on 5 May 2006 in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, by the Government of National Unity and the Sudan Liberation Movement,

Decides

1. *To condemn* the terrorist operation that was launched by the rebel group Justice and Equality Movement, led by Khalil Ibrahim, with a view to undermining the stability of the Sudan, and request the Movement to renounce all forms of violence;

2. *To affirm* the support of the League of Arab States for the efforts exerted by the Government of National Unity with a view to achieving peace, security and stability in all parts of the Sudan, and the solidarity of the League with that country in facing all attacks against its security, stability and peace;

3. *To affirm also* the need for complete commitment to the principle of good-neighbourliness, and urge all States that are supporting armed rebel groups to desist from providing such support or allowing them to use their territory as a base from which to threaten the unity, security, stability and territorial integrity of the Sudan;

4. *To request* the Secretary-General to communicate immediately with the Head of the African Union legation with a view to joint Afro-Arab action that will assist in ensuring commitment to the principle of good-neighbourliness and spreading stability throughout the region;

5. *To request also* the armed rebel groups that have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement to renounce the choice of military escalation and make a commitment to dialogue as the sole means of achieving peace in Darfur; and to request the international community to exert efforts to prevent resistance to the Agreement by military means or by instigating tribal fanaticism within displaced persons and refugee camps;

6. *To call upon* the Security Council to take the measures necessary to impose appropriate sanctions on any armed movement that aims to threaten peace and stability in the Sudan and to obstruct the political process in Darfur;

7. *To call upon* the international community to accelerate completion of what has been agreed upon and to prepare a climate conducive to the holding of an inter-Darfuri dialogue, as well as to intensify development and reconstruction efforts in Darfur, pursuant to the Peace Agreement;

8. *To call upon* the international community also to honour its commitment to uphold and salvage the Darfur Peace Agreement and bring pressure to bear upon all the armed rebel groups to renew the peace process as soon as possible, and to desist from any action that might threaten the unity, security, stability and territorial integrity of the Sudan;

9. *To request* the Secretary-General to follow up the issue and to keep the Council of the League in session and ready to follow up developments in the situation.

Resolution 6916, extraordinary session of 11 May 2008

The tense situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in the Djiboutian region of Ras Doumeira

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level,

Having heard the account presented by the head of the delegation of Djibouti of the tense situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in the Djiboutian region of Ras Doumeira and the efforts exerted by Djibouti to use peaceful means to reduce the tension between those two countries,

Having heard also the account presented by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar of the commendable endeavours exerted by his country to resolve the crisis between those two neighbouring countries,

Having heard in addition the account presented by the Secretary-General of the outcome of the meeting of the Arab Peace and Security Council that was held at delegate level on 4 May 2008, the efforts that are being exerted by the League in that regard and the dispatch on 8 May 2008 of a General Secretariat mission to the border region in order to establish the nature of the situation,

Decides

1. *To affirm* the need for the two neighbouring countries to respect the principle of good-neighbourliness, the post-independence borders, national unity and territorial integrity;

2. *To call upon* the two neighbouring countries to exert self-control, use peaceful means to resolve the problem and avoid taking any measures that could escalate the situation;

3. *To support* the laudable efforts being exerted by Qatar to address the tension between the two countries by peaceful means;

4. *To uphold* the measures that have been taken by the Arab Peace and Security Council and request Eritrea to cooperate in the mission that is being carried out in that regard by the League of Arab States delegation;

5. *To request* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the two parties and to cooperate and coordinate with Qatar, the Head of the African Union legation and the Arab League and African Union Peace and Security Councils with a view to ensuring joint Afro-Arab action in dealing with the crisis and achieving stability in the region;

6. *To request* the Secretary-General also to submit a report on the issue to the Council of the League in the light of the relevant efforts that have been exerted.

Resolution 6917, extraordinary session of 11 May 2008